

VIII. REGIONAL AND INTER-COMMUNITY CONSIDERATIONS

Some hazard mitigation issues are strictly local. The problem originates primarily within the municipality and can be solved at the municipal level. Other issues are inter-community and require cooperation between two or more municipalities. There is a third level of mitigation which is regional and may involve a state, regional or federal agency or three or more municipalities.

Regional Partners

In many communities, mitigating natural hazards is more than a local issue. The facilities that serve these communities are complex systems owned and operated by a wide array of agencies, government, and private entities. The planning, construction, operations and maintenance of these facilities are integral to the hazard mitigation efforts of communities. These agencies must be considered the communities' regional partners in hazard mitigation. These agencies also operate under the same constraints as communities do, including budgetary and staffing constraints and numerous competing priorities. In the sections that follow, the plan includes recommendations for activities to be undertaken by these other agencies. Implementation of these recommendations will require that all parties work together to develop solutions.

Regional Facilities within Concord

Major facilities owned, operated and maintained by federal, state, regional or private entities in Concord include:

- Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (US Fish and Wildlife)
- Walden Pond State Reservation (MA DCR)
- Hanscom Air Force Base (US Air force)
- Hanscom Field Regional Airport (MassPort)
- Minuteman National Historic Park (U.S. National Park Service)
- MBTA Commuter Rail Fitchburg Line with stations in Concord and West Concord
- State Police Barracks on Elm Street (MA State Police)
- Massachusetts Highway Facility
- Northeastern Correctional Facility - former "Farm Dormitory" (Mass Department of Correction)
- Massachusetts Correctional Institute at Concord (Mass Department of Correction)
- Emerson Hospital (177 beds with service to 25 communities)
- Walden Street School (Meadowridge Schools)
- Tenneco Gas Line (El Paso Energy Company)
- Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Regional Headquarters
- Routes 2, 2A, 62, 117, 119 and 126 (MassHighway)

Inter-Community Considerations

Mitigation measures for the following regional issues should be taken into account as Concord develops its own local plan:

A) Coordinate and Review Developments on a Regional Basis

As Concord and the surrounding communities are undergoing development, it is vital that these communities communicate and provide input during the review processes. When addressing housing, transportation, and economic development projects, the impacts to neighbors must be addressed. The Alexan Concord Development in Concord is a prime example of how one development has the potential to create impacts in Sudbury, Maynard, and Acton.

B) Long-Term Regional Management Plan To Control Beaver Activity

One regional issue of significance is the widespread effects of beaver dams in the area. Most streams, wetland areas, and ponds in the region have had some degree of beaver activity in the past several years. Much of the localized flooding that occurs is due to beaver activity. The towns will mitigate the problem temporarily by hiring trappers, removing dams, or installing pipes, but a long-term comprehensive approach should be considered.

C) Coordinate Community Sheltering with Emerson Hospital

In addition to seeking alternate sheltering for the Concord community as noted under proposed mitigation, the town should coordinate with other communities to address sheltering issues at Emerson hospital and other regional facilities such as the prison.

D) Dam Conditions and Emergency Plans Upstream of the Town of Concord

Dams in upstream communities are frequently of concern to downstream communities. In the case of Concord, the dams along the Assabet River upstream in Acton and Maynard have been the greatest concern, particularly in the past when the dams have been in poor condition. The Old High Street dam in Acton is currently undergoing significant upgrades that will help mitigate against future dam breaches. The Mill Pond Dam in Maynard has also undergone recent upgrades. The communities should continue to coordinate with each other to address concerns of dam conditions and emergency response plans in the event of a hazardous storm event.